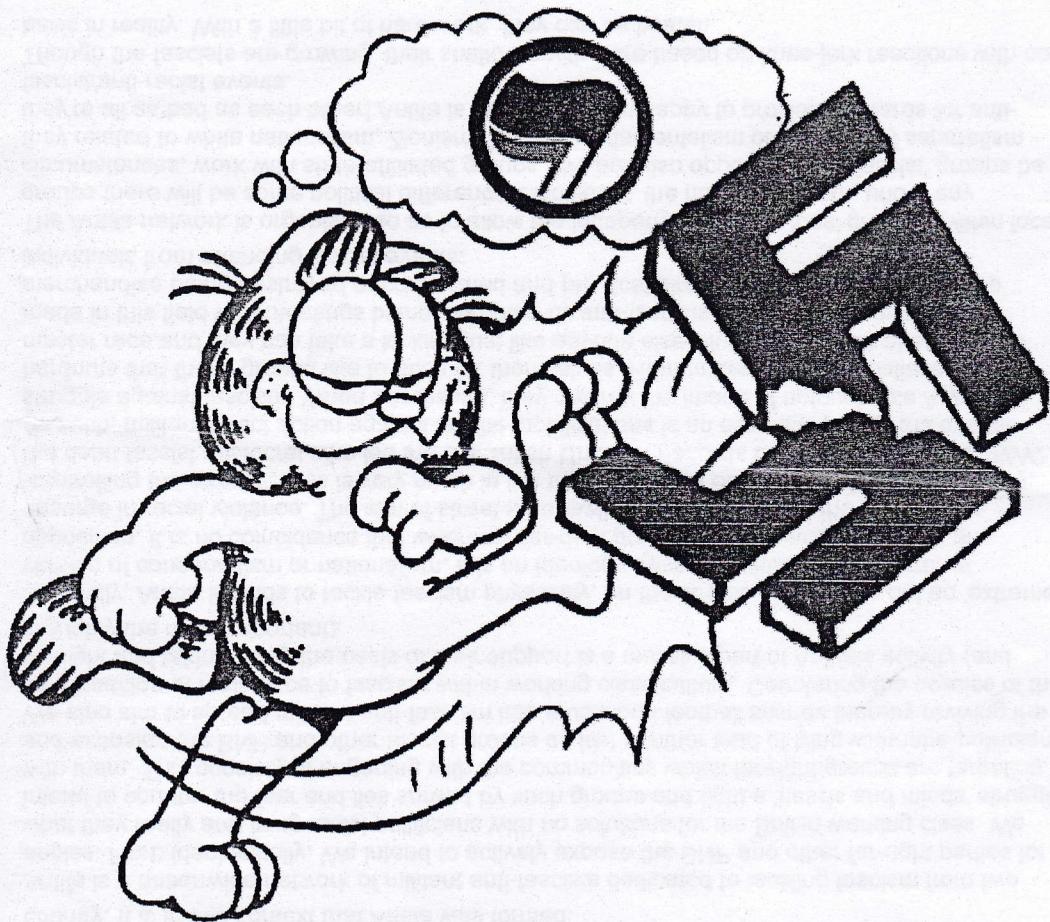


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BASH THE FASH

An introduction to Antifa



www.antifa.org.uk

For Militant Anti-Fascism

In recent years, the presence of anti-fascists has been small and fragmented. There has been little organised opposition to fascism in this country. Any opposition that has sprung up has often come in the form of the liberal Anti-Nazi League (or now Unite Against Fascism) and the call for a "vote anyone who isn't BNP" campaign. This has failed pitifully. By calling people to vote Labour or Tory to keep the BNP out, liberals have been asking people to vote for the same parties that created all the problems that made them turn to the BNP in the first place. As such, the fascists have continued to grow and make further headway in communities up and down the country. It is in this context that Antifa was formed.

Antifa is a nationwide network of militant anti-fascists dedicated to tackling fascism from two angles. First: ideologically. We intend to actively expose the BNP and other far-right parties for what they really are: lying racist politicians with no solutions for the British working class. We intend to counter the fear and lies spread by such groups and fight a 'hearts and minds' struggle with them. This consists of engaging with the communities which far-right groups are targeting and exposing the BNP and other fascist groups as just another load of lying wannabe-politicians. We also aim to spread militant anti-fascism into music and football scenes thereby reviving the long tradition of resistance to fascism within working class culture. Countering the policies of the far-right and taking away the basis of their support is a massive part of Antifa's activity (and arguably the most important).

Secondly, Antifa intends to tackle fascism physically, on the streets. Fascism is not an 'extreme' version of conservatism or nationalism. It is an ideology based on violence and terror of opposition. It is no coincidence that wherever far-right groups become active, there is an upsurge in racial violence. The aim of street mobilisations is to give them the image of 'controlling the streets'. This is very much in the tradition of the Blackshirts of Oswald Mosley, the dead fascist aristocrat who led the old British Union of Fascists both before and after WW2. As such, militant direct action against fascist mobilisations is an essential part of the overall struggle against fascism. When successful, they destroy the image of untouchable Aryan hardnuts that these groups like to push for themselves. Remember, only they believe in the master race and they can take a kicking just like anyone else! Successes have already been made in this field with meetings being disrupted by anti-fascists, hundreds of pounds of merchandise being destroyed or confiscated and physical direct action being taken to stop individuals from attending fascist events.

The Antifa network is organised so as to allow the independence of its local groups. Within local groups there will be some political differences. However, the network will not, under any circumstances, work with state-affiliated groups. We are also opposed to all 'fascist' groups be they related to white nationalism, Zionism, Islamic fundamentalism or any kind of separatism - they're all as bad as each other! Antifa is also more than happy to provide stewards for anti-fascist/anti-racist events.

Though the fascists are growing, their shallow politics are based on knee-jerk reactions with no basis in reality. With a little bit of hard work, they can be beaten.

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